

Whitchurch Parish Council - Chairman's report

Well the last year has been another busy year for the Parish Council.

Without doubt the most disturbing issue has been the real fight we have on our hands to stop large developments coming into the village and I need to single out Councillor David Meakin and Councillor Charlotte Lincoln for their work in producing an amazing objection statement. Working alongside the Whitchurch Action Group, I hope the Parish Council going forward can continue to oppose such ill thought through developments. I should also take the opportunity here to thank Councillor Lincoln for the new Parish Council website she has developed. Very much appreciated.

On a more positive note. Looking to projects for the village then.....

The mobile vehicle activated sign (MVAS) has been installed and, as its proven that a decrease in speeds of about 5% are experienced after one of these are installed, I'm hoping residents will have noticed the difference.

In my report last year I said that we were working with BCC to try and get a new footpath to the bus stop from Church Headland Lane. Well, our new Clerk, Ann-Marie, followed this up and together with a contribution of £1500 from the Parish Council, I am pleased to say this footpath will be installed during the summer. The Clerk has also obtained funding of £825 from AVDC for a new noticeboard in the village, so my thanks for that also.

County Councillor Netta Glover has once again contributed some of her Community Leaders Fund towards the repair of two iron benches in the Village. I wish to publicly thank her on behalf of the Parish Council for that.

Another project we are still pursuing on behalf of residents is a pedestrian crossing in the High Street. In order to access New Homes Bonus funding from Aylesbury Vale District Council we first have to provide a feasibility study which supports the need for the installation of a crossing. To this end, we have set aside £5000 for Transport for Buckinghamshire to undertake this study. Once that is complete, which again, should be in the summer, our expression of interest for New Homes funding can be submitted.

This year, also sees the getting together of all of the 12 Whitchurch villages that exist across the UK. In July of this year, we have been invited to take part in a weekend festival that is taking place in Hampshire, to celebrate all of the

Whitchurch villages. Keep a look out on our new website for further details on that one.

The Parish Council has also paid for a Play session with sports which is being held in the village on the afternoon of Tuesday 28 July 2015. Make sure your children attend!

Meetings have been held at the Methodist Church over the past few months and I'd like to thank Councillor Paul Alderman for his part in organising this on our behalf.

I have a few further thanks I need to make on behalf of the Parish Council.

First, our thanks once again go to Heather and Robin Moore who continue to look after the land at the Meadows so very well. It's remarkable how they both give up so much of their time and the wild flower meadows continue to thrive because of their dedication. I must also thank Paul Walton on behalf of the Parish Council for looking after the pond.

Betty Rose too of course. Amongst other aspects, Betty also continues to clean the shelters in the village.

Thanks also to Councillor Paul Foot who regularly inspects the play equipment, empties the bins and generally maintains the area. He's even been cleaning it recently!

I'm pleased to say the Parish Council voted to NOT increase the precept this year. We believe we can contain expenditure within the current budget, and if we don't, well, that will be down to the Clerk.

Talking of which, I should mention Ann-Marie Davies who I mentioned earlier. Ann-Marie is our new Clerk and I'm pleased to say she's fitted in very well and I'd like to thank her for all the work she does to support me and the Parish Council since her start in June last year. It feels like she's been here longer than that!!

So, to end, I'd like to formally thank all my fellow Councillors and County Councillor Netta Glover for the time they give up and the work they have done to support the Parish Council this year. I hope the work that this team has completed over the year can continue with or without the addition of new members.

Thank you